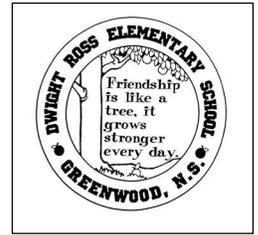


Annual Report
June 2016

DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by so quickly at Dwight Ross Elementary School. All in all it has been a very successful year for the 167 students from Grades Primary to 5 who attended DRES during the 2015-16 school year. As I reflect back on this year, as your principal, I am truly amazed at the numerous accomplishments of our students and staff. To say that this is just a busy place is certainly an understatement. We have had numerous events this year. Open house and the book fairs, the family dances, the Holiday concert, Science and Heritage fairs, and cross country running, the "DRES Has Talent" show and our school trips to the Oaklawn Farm Zoo and Fort Anne/Port Royal National Historic Sites and our Food drive are a few of those events that come to mind.

For the 2016-2017 school year, DRES will be welcoming the following new staff; Evan Redden (grade 3) and Kim Grove (Core French)

Best of luck to those staff members who will not be returning in the fall, including Mrs. Peters, Miss Lightfoot, Mme Kingsbury, Ms. Adams, Mrs. Neufeld-Klein and Ms. McNeil

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to make DRES the positive learning environment that it is. Enjoy a relaxing summer and see you in the fall. The first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 7th, 2016.

Thank you.

Lisa J. Hewson
Principal

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Our Mission Statement

We are a school community inspired to think, dream, believe, and achieve through partnerships among children, parents, staff, and community in a safe, nurturing environment

School and Community

Dwight Ross Elementary School officially opened on May 25, 1961. It was built in Greenwood to serve military dependents, in grades primary to six, of what was then known as, Royal Canadian Air Forces Station Greenwood. The school itself, is named for Air Commodore A. Dwight Ross, GC, CBE, CD who distinguished himself as a war hero in the second World War when he was appointed as commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and after the war, as Chief Staff Officer of Training Command, Commandant of the RCAF Staff College, Air Officer Commanding, Air Transport Command, and Air Office Commanding, Maritime Air Command. He was later appointed Air Member for the Canadian Joint Staff, London, England, and then Commander of No. 5 Air Division, Vancouver, BC.

Our school believes in preparing children for the future by establishing a partnership with parents and a link between the school and its community. We need to work together in providing quality opportunities for our children for developing intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

We like to foster a sense of belonging in our students. We invite them to take pride in keeping our premises clean, healthy and environmentally friendly. By encouraging students to respect one another and their belongings, we teach them to become responsible citizens. We strive to develop a peaceful environment where everyone's differences are recognized and enjoyed.

We believe strongly in the concept of a total school community and encourage open dialogue with all partners in the ongoing process of developing our children.

During the 2015 - 2016 school year, there were approximately 167 students registered in Grades P-5. There were 15 teachers, 10 Educational Assistants, 1 secretary, 2 custodians, 1 Library technician and 1 Principal. We are very proud of our 28 Grade Primary students who had an excellent beginning to their school experience. We wish all the best to the 24 Grade 5 students who will be off to Pine Ridge in the fall.



Professional Learning for Staff

Dwight Ross Elementary School is involved in a process of Student Success Planning (SSP). It is our responsibility as teachers to reflect on our work and to continue to improve so that we can provide meaningful learning experiences for all students. Staff met regularly in learning teams during inservice days and early dismissals to work together and focus on areas related to our learning goals;

Goal #1: To increase the number of students meeting grade level expectations in writing development.

Goal #2: To increase the number of students meeting grade level expectations in number sense and operations

RCH Goal: To teach RCH related material to our students so that they become more aware, and to promote a cultural focus throughout the year.

Our teachers and support staff are committed to ongoing professional development and, as such, seek out opportunities that support individual goals towards student achievement.

Some example of PD opportunities the staff of DRES took part in this year are

Beginning and Growing Readers

October Conference

Early Literacy

Visual Arts 4-6

New Math Curriculum (P-3)

Aesop Training

TINET Training

RCH Inservicing

Mental Health First Aid

"Go To" Training

Restorative Practices

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention

First Aid

Autism in-servicing

Autism Centre—iPad Usage

Prologuo2go Training

Tools for Life Conference

Music Therapy program for ASD children

Student Achievement

Each year students in grades 3 and 4 participate in provincial assessments used to measure the level that each student has achieved in the area of Literacy and Mathematics. The data collected from the provincial assessments is valuable, yet it is only a small piece of how students are performing. The majority of students' progress is seen by teachers through numerous school assessments. Below are the results of the Provincial Grade 3 Reading and Writing and the Grade 4 Mathematics assessments. The percentages represent students meeting and exceeding curriculum expectations.

Grade 3 Reading & Writing Provincial Assessment 2015-16

	DRES	AVRSB	Province
Reading	81.3	66.8	67
Writing-Ideas	78	73	73
Writing-Organization	68.8	57	59
Writing-Language	59.4	61	63
Writing-Conventions	58.6	47	51

Grade 4 Mathematics Provincial Assessment 2015-16

	DRES	AVRSB	Province
Overall Performance	77.3	73	76
Number	81.8	73	N/A
Measurement	72.7	55	N/A
Statistics & Probability	59.1	66	N/A
Geometry	77.3	67	N/A
Patterns & Relations	86.4	75	N/A

Safe and Caring Environment

Dwight Ross Elementary School is a caring and courteous school. A range of proactive strategies are in place to promote positive behavior. Students are taught school wide expectations using a code of conduct PEBS (Positive Effective Behavior Support) Matrix. This shows respect for self, others, learning and environment. Students are rewarded for compliance to our code of conduct.

Continuing this year, our reward system consisted of BRAVOs.

BRAVOs were given, by staff, to students when they were observed exhibiting positive behavior. Every time a student received a BRAVO, their name was put into a draw box in their class. Every week a name was drawn from each class and those students received a friendship leaf for the tree, in the gym, and a pencil to take home.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives

At DRES, it is our goal to teach RCH related material to the students, but also to make them part of the everyday culture of our school. There have been activities that have taken place during the year in individual classrooms and there has been professional development for staff. Some of the RCH related activities and events that students and staff have taken part in are:

-RCH bulletin board displays throughout the year

-African Heritage month symbol bingo read over morning

- announcements, during African Heritage month in February
- Individual class discussions on African-Canadian Heritage month and its meaning and importance.
 - Individual class discussions and recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.
 - Mi'kmaq history month information read over morning announcements, during Mi'kmaq history month in October
 - Playing the Mi'kmaq version of O'Canada periodically throughout the year
 - December Holiday Concert Songs
 - Anti-bullying Day activities
 - Gr 4/5 participation in the DRES Heritage Fair
 - Collaboration with Student Support Worker
 - RCH advisor inservices
 - Mental Health awareness week
 - Celebrating the month of the military child in April

Student Involvement and Successes

Many of the students are involved with the school's recycling program "The Green Team". Under Mrs. Davidson's leadership, students on this team sort and wash most of the recyclables that, as a school, we dispose of daily. Also green team students learn to compost by gathering compostable items daily from classes.

At DRES we offer extra-curricular activities such as; noon time activities, choir and active after school activities. Students volunteer to help out at our breakfast program which is a daily program that provides cereal, crackers, cheese, fruit, yogurt, and toast, in a grab and go format, to students as they arrive in the morning. Our program feeds an average of 85 students per day.

Other activities that students have participated in are:

- Terry Fox Walk
- Food Drive
- African Heritage month bingo game
- Family Fun Fair
- Family Dances
- Field Day
- DRES and Regional Science Fairs
- DRES and Regional Heritage Fairs
- Lion's Club Drug Awareness Poster contest
- GMFRC "Capture It" Contest
- Fire Safety presentation
- Pink Shirt Day
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Stranger Danger Presentation

Students were also treated to several presentations this year including: Precision Dance Academy, several author visits (in conjunction with the writers in schools (WITS) program, West Kings Band and Shalan Joudry.

Parent/Teacher Association

The DRES parent-teacher association (PTA) is a huge part of our school community and is active in many facets of our school life, especially fundraising for our students.

Meetings are held every second month and are open to all parents/guardians of DRES students as well as all DRES staff.

This year, the PTA continued the new tradition of handing out birthday pencils at our school's monthly Good News Assembly.

Every month, the PTA organizes a "Spirit Day", which consists of a particular theme for the day. Some of these types of day include, PJ Day, Crazy Hat Day, Crazy Hair Day, to name a couple.

Some annual events that the PTA organizes are:

- Holiday Shopping Spree
- Family Fun Fair
- Family Dances
- Holiday Turkey dinner for all students and staff
- Provided lunch specials twice per month